

NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

JUNE-JULY 1948

PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS • CHICAGO 5 • VOL. 15, NO. 10

"UNFINISHED BUSINESS— THE CHILD AND HIS FUTURE"

*A Digest of Mrs. Hughes'
Presentation of the 1948
National Convention Theme*

EVERY child has a right to a good education, good health, and a childhood and youth spent under the fostering care of parents trained for their task. This is a fact so obvious, when one looks at it squarely, that it cannot be called any more than a simple demand. So simple is it, and so clearly just, that we cannot help wondering why it has not been met. We call our generation one that accomplishes things. We are proud of our growth in knowledge and power. Yet in the most vital of all fields of effort—that of child welfare—these elemental problems remain unsolved. And the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, after half a century of labor and devotion, must still turn all its energies toward their solution.

- We know, and with reason, that this is not all our fault. We know how hard we have striven and how long. But we have no time to pause for self-congratulation—and no desire to pause. This year, as we move into our second half century, we realize keenly that we are now fully grown. The time has come for every one of us to face not only the *reality* which confronts us but our own *maturity* and the demands it makes upon us.

- Cooperation is a fine word and a fine thing. But it is valuable only as it is directed toward valuable ends. Have we sometimes, though well meaning, scattered our efforts? Have we once in a while followed the line of least resistance when a little more concentrated effort would have cleared the road? If so, it is time to stop doing them now—today and forever—so that this convention may be in all truth the mark of our coming of age.

- Let us now examine the state of things as they stand and determine, point by point, what must be done to make our Four-Point Program thoroughly effective. In the field of school

education we have made good progress. Faced with an all-time crisis in educational affairs, parent-teacher groups all over the United States have worked valiantly to meet the emergency. Nearly every state has reported activity in support of state legislation to aid the schools, to increase teachers' salaries, and to provide for teacher tenure and retirement. The need for better buildings, facilities, and materials has been the constant concern of parent-teacher members.

- Nevertheless, the teacher shortage is worse this year than last. In June

we may expect 10,000 new teachers to graduate from our teacher training institutions. Ten thousand, when we need 150,000 at least! According to reliable statistics, within ten years we shall have nearly 6,000,000 children for whom no schooling will be available—unless there is substantial aid from the federal government. And we hope with all our hearts that federal aid for free, public, tax-supported schools will soon become a part of the law of the land.

- Because there can be no such thing as welfare without full attention to physical needs, the National Congress, a



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The national president and three parent-teacher leaders examine the program of the annual convention. Reading from left to right: Mrs. Josephine W. Eshelman, national chairman of Juvenile Protection and acting chairman of the Convention Management Committee; Mrs. Paul L. Gould, national chairman of Publicity; Mrs. L. W. Hughes, national president; and Mrs. Keith E. Weigle, president of the Ohio Congress, the hostess state.

(continued from page 1)

child welfare organization, has always been active in the field of health. Yet today there are still 40,000,000 persons who have little or no access to public health services. This is why our organization has initiated and sponsored a federal bill providing appropriations for the extension and improvement of public health units throughout America—perhaps the most important step we have ever taken in the cause of good health. (The April 1948 *Bulletin* contains full information about the Local Public Health Services Act.)

● Now in committee, this measure calls for our all-out support. It is not a bill for socialized medicine; it is not a party bill. Its purpose is the prevention, not the cure, of disease. It is not revolutionary or even novel; it is merely very necessary. Let us make it our business to tell others about it and urge them to action. There is not a member of the National Congress, however remotely located, who cannot do some needed promoting of this needed legislation.

● As for the third point of our program, world understanding, only those who believe with all their souls that peace is possible, feasible, and desirable can know with what earnestness we parent-teacher members are striving toward it. Once more, however, there is much to be done. First of all, as individuals, we shall continue to set a consistently good example to our young people, if we want them to live at peace in the world and work toward universal human welfare. Then, second, as an organization, we shall continue to back the United Nations and to accept the responsibilities that attend this support—one of them being our representation on the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO.

● We know that we cannot assure any lasting benefit to American children if by so doing we leave out the children of the rest of the world. That is why we have gone on record as approving the Stratton bill, which authorizes the United States to receive its fair share of displaced persons. We have commended the acceptance of the Marshall Plan, at the same time asking all state branches, local units, and individual parent-teacher members to give every assistance to stricken peoples in war-blighted areas. And there is good reason to believe that we have done not only this but far more in our efforts toward world understanding.

● We come now to the fourth part of our program, parent and family life education. There is no question of its im-

portance, for we know full well that only children from homes where families have learned to get along happily with one another can grow into adults capable of managing the affairs of a united world. And only parents equipped to provide such homes can give us the kind of men and women we need for the world of tomorrow. Moreover, the National Congress was founded as an instrument of parent education, and for fifty years our parent education program has grown steadily. Every year brings new evidence of its invigorating work—of the conferences, study groups, and symposiums that flourish both within the Congress and in cooperative meetings with other like-minded organizations. We emphasize constantly the need for trained lay leaders in our parent education groups, and we are sparing no effort to provide such training. Also, because there are many teachers and administrators who know the power of the P.T.A. but not its way of working or its specific purposes, we are this fall instituting for them a pilot program at Northwestern University—a fully accredited course on parent-teacher leadership as conceived and executed by our organization.

● All this, then, constitutes our unfinished business. When we speak of the child and his future, let us take careful thought. The child has no future worth having until we secure it for him. If we awake *now* to the needs of the future and begin to align ourselves with the day that is sure to come, we shall save ourselves, our children, and the world from a tragic waste of time, energy, and human values. And if our ideals are true, they will one day come to pass, no matter what hostile forces intervene. When that glorious day arrives, it will find us ready.

Mabel H. Hughes

President
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

Membership Cards Distributed

Nearly 7,000,000 membership cards for 1948-49 have been distributed free to state congresses. *Membership cards are not sent direct to local associations from the National Office.* Please write to your state office if you have any questions to ask about membership cards.

MAGAZINE AWARDS

THE following fourteen states were awarded HONOR PLAQUES at the national convention in recognition of their outstanding efforts in increasing subscriptions to the *National Parent-Teacher*:

Delaware	Louisiana
Kentucky	Florida
Maryland	Mississippi
Ohio	District of Columbia
South Dakota	South Carolina
Oregon	Illinois
North Dakota	Iowa

South Dakota earned the Four-Point Program pennant for having done most to promote that program through the use of the *National Parent-Teacher*. For having sent in the most subscriptions during the year—a total of 12,294—the *Illinois Congress* will receive a leather-bound volume of the Magazine, appropriately inscribed. For having secured the most subscriptions to the *National Parent-Teacher* during the year, Mrs. H. L. Dellinger, Magazine chairman of the Hume High School P.T.A. of Memphis, Tennessee, will receive an autographed, de luxe edition of the *Golden Jubilee History*.

FIFTY OR MORE

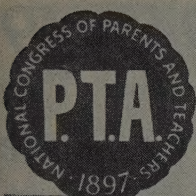
Final information regarding the subscription totals of the associations listed below was late in reaching us. However, all of them secured fifty or more subscriptions to *National Parent-Teacher: The P.T.A. Magazine* during the year ending March 31, 1948, and are entitled to recognition for this achievement.

Maple Ave.	Newark, N. J.	140
Central Park	Omaha, Nebr.	104
Harding	Erie, Pa.	104
Muscoda	Bessemer, Ala.	96
Beacon Hill	San Antonio, Texas	81
Wildwood Crest	Wildwood Crest, N.J.	70
Stevens	Altoona, Pa.	70
Long School	Concord, N. C.	61
Carlisle	Carlisle, Ark.	57
Longfellow	Pennsauken, N. J.	57
Irving	Erie, Pa.	56
Park-Lowry	Knoxville, Tenn.	56
Fairview	Altoona, Pa.	55
Audubon Grade	Audubon, N. J.	54
Navarre	Navarre, Ohio	54
Jerome Jones	Atlanta, Ga.	53
Crossett	Crossett, Ark.	52
Mark Newbie	Collingswood, N. J.	51
Francis Willard	Eugene, Ore.	51
Roosevelt	Yakima, Wash.	51
Farmington	Farmington, Ark.	50
Seminole	Tampa, Fla.	50
Lena H. Cox	Atlanta, Ga.	50
Brentano	Chicago, Ill.	50
Marion Park	Meridian, Miss.	50

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National Congress OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS

MEMBERSHIP BY STATES:

Alabama	124,434
Arizona	28,440
Arkansas	82,430
California	690,321
Colorado	81,080
Connecticut	52,992
Delaware	11,615
D. C.	27,724
Florida	134,240
Georgia	105,294
Hawaii	31,039
Idaho	26,121
Illinois	317,792
Indiana	141,235
Iowa	78,754
Kansas	85,156
Kentucky	92,275
Louisiana	47,608

Maine	15,820
Maryland	46,450
Massachusetts	70,361
Michigan	163,356
Minnesota	115,013
Mississippi	43,654
Missouri	145,842
Montana	17,285
Nebraska	44,453
Nevada	5,238
New Hampshire	8,487
New Jersey	200,371
New Mexico	12,985
New York	196,584
North Carolina	174,368
North Dakota	22,636
Ohio	346,712
Oklahoma	87,820

Oregon	69,541
Pennsylvania	233,973
Rhode Island	23,460
South Carolina	32,292
South Dakota	19,776
Tennessee	137,295
Texas	293,082
Utah	56,201
Vermont	16,040
Virginia	112,307
Washington	118,041
West Virginia	72,566
Wisconsin	59,402
Wyoming	6,638
Unorganized Territory	1,297
TOTAL	5,127,896

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Dear Local Committee on Membership:

The total number of memberships in the National Congress of Parents and Teachers has reached an all-time high record this year of 5,127,896. This vast enrollment could not have been possible except for the individual efforts of you who are committee members in our local associations. Your part in this accomplishment has been no small task, and I want to express personally our appreciation for your splendid contribution to the total program of the National Congress.

As we close our membership work for this year and look ahead to the future, let us remember that it is already time to begin making plans for P.T.A. enrollments for the new school year. Local membership committees should give all adult citizens in the community—fathers, mothers, teachers, and all friends of children—an opportunity to enroll as members of an association and to participate actively in its program of service.

The membership committee should be made up of many persons, particularly active men members who will interest new members in enrolling. This is one parent-teacher committee that should be especially democratic and widespread in representation. Moreover, the personnel of the committee should be well informed on parent-teacher policies and activities and should have a working knowledge of the over-all program of the association. This information can be found in National Congress publications, and I therefore recommend constant use of the *National Parent-Teacher* magazine, the *National Congress Bulletin*, and your state bulletin. Be sure that you know the answers in presenting our cause.

Please make every effort to make your enrollment appeal on a personal basis, and in planning the techniques of your approach I would suggest HOME VISITS whenever possible. Each new member should have a personal greeting, and be sure there is a cordial welcome at every monthly meeting. As soon as possible give the new person an

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP ACHIEVEMENTS

Ten States Having the Highest Percent of Gain over the Previous Year

1. Hawaii	28.4
2. South Carolina	27.1
3. Virginia	26.9
4. Oregon	24.4
5. Arizona	23.7
6. New Hampshire	22.5
7. Wisconsin	21.8
8. Massachusetts	21.6
9. Wyoming	21.5
10. Michigan	19.9

Ten States Having the Highest Numerical Gain over the Previous Year

1. California	81,567
2. Ohio	44,663
3. Illinois	40,194
4. Texas	35,886
5. New Jersey	31,819
6. Pennsylvania	31,417
7. Michigan	27,043
8. New York	26,372
9. Virginia	23,802
10. Washington	18,391

Ten States Having the Most Members

1. California	690,321
2. Ohio	346,712
3. Illinois	317,792
4. Texas	293,082
5. Pennsylvania	233,973
6. New Jersey	200,371
7. New York	196,584
8. North Carolina	174,368
9. Michigan	163,356
10. Missouri	145,842

opportunity to participate in the activities. Make each member feel that his contribution is important and his influence is needed.

The possibilities for our national enrollment this coming year are unlimited. Less than 5 per cent of the population has been enrolled so far. In 1949 we expect the largest gains in the history of the National Congress. Set a goal in each local unit, each council, each district, and each state. Our resources have barely been touched. Let's make it 6,000,000 MEMBERSHIPS IN 1949!

MRS. WALTER H. BECKHAM
National Chairman
Committee on Membership

The Board of Managers of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers will meet at the Congress Hotel in Chicago, Illinois, September 13-17, 1948.

PARENT-TEACHER PLATFORM • 1948-49

ADOPTED BY THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS
AT THE NATIONAL CONVENTION IN CLEVELAND • OHIO • MAY 1948

*This is my prayer, O God of all the nations,
A prayer of peace for lands afar and mine;
This is my home, the country where my heart is,
This is my hope, my dream, my shrine;
But other hearts in other lands are beating
With hopes and fears the same as mine.*

*Oh, hear my prayer, thou God of all the nations,
A prayer of peace for their land and mine.*

—FINLANDIA

• • •

THIS fervent outcry expresses the deep-seated yearning of the peoples of the world. In it lies a challenge to every parent-teacher member today to apply more effectively our present knowledge of what constitutes a secure, healthy, happy childhood; to expand our search for better methods of meeting the needs of children and youth; and to seek ways to study the forces which are today influencing our children for good or evil.

We believe that the National Congress of Parents and Teachers is the ideal medium through which to accomplish the tasks implied in the theme of this convention: "Unfinished Business—The Child and His Future."



© Frederic Lewis

THIS BUSINESS OF EDUCATION

• We believe that a free public education is the basic right of every child and that the integrity of our free public school system should be maintained and strengthened.

We therefore advocate that:

1. The quality of the teaching profession should be raised through higher standards of admission, in-service training, removal of bans on married teachers, professional recognition by the community, and adequate housing facilities for teachers. Teachers' salaries should be based upon a recog-

nized, satisfactory, single-salary schedule that includes adequate tenure and retirement provisions.

2. The granting of liberal scholarships should be encouraged by state congresses to attract competent young people into the teaching field.

3. Whenever necessary, school districts should be reorganized into units large enough to meet modern educational needs effectively and economically.

4. Public school systems, from early childhood through junior college, with coordinated curriculums throughout, should be developed and extended, and adult education should be recognized as an integral part of that system.

5. In order to equalize educational opportunity for all children, federal aid should be granted to public, tax-supported schools with provision that it be distributed and controlled by regularly constituted state educational agencies.

6. Communities should be encouraged to utilize the trained personnel of local professions and industries to augment the classroom teaching.

7. There should be a continued development and expansion in the field of guidance and counseling through adequately trained personnel.

8. Provision should be made in all schools for experience and training in the cultural arts for every child in accordance with his interests and capabilities.

9. Emphasis should be placed on safety education in the schools, from kindergarten through high school.

10. The value of radio, television, films, and other audio-visual materials should be recognized as a means of education.

11. Further attention and study should be given to the problem of providing an adequate education for the exceptional child, particularly in rural and sparsely settled areas.



FOUR-POINT PROGRAM
OF THE NATIONAL CONGRESS
OF PARENTS AND
TEACHERS

1. School Education
2. Health
3. World Understanding
4. Parent and Family Life Education



© Eva Luoma

THIS BUSINESS OF HEALTH

• We accept the definition of health as promulgated by the World Health Organization: "Health is defined as a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, not merely the absence of disease and infirmity."

Since "a health program is everybody's business and its development depends upon local initiative and a knowledge of local needs," we recommend that:

1. Our present broad program of health activities and projects, initiated by the National Congress and state congresses and implemented by local units, should be continued.
2. A strong, active support should be given to the Local Public Health Services Act of 1948. One of the recommendations made at the National Health Assembly called by the President of the United States in May 1948 was that full-time health departments in every city and county or combination of counties are essential to a strong health program, and the National Health Assembly pointed out that this recommendation is implemented by the National Congress bill (S.2189, H.R.5644, and H.R.5678) now before the United States Congress.
3. We should study and help to implement the National Mental Health Act, which enables states and communities to secure federal aid for mental hygiene clinics, for research in relation to mental health, and for scholarship training in this field.
4. Social hygiene education should begin in the home and



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Where do you come from? Four presidents of widely separated congresses come together in Cleveland, Ohio, where they point out their respective homes on a map of the United States. In the usual order: Mrs. Joseph I. Smith of Maine, A. W. Zellmer of Wisconsin, Mrs. Rollin Brown of California, and Kilmer O. Moe of Hawaii.

should be continued in the school by adequately trained teachers, and state congresses should encourage teacher education colleges in their respective states to include social hygiene (including sex education) as a part of the required health courses for teachers.

We further recommend that public school administrators be encouraged to broaden the curriculum to include courses in health and human relations education in junior and senior high schools.



© Ed. Lowy

THIS BUSINESS OF WORLD UNDERSTAND- ING

• Statesmen alone cannot guarantee a peaceful world. The people must insist that ways be found to establish world understanding and world good will. For this reason:

1. We advocate the pursuit of a clear and positive foreign policy by the United States. We recommend that parent-teacher associations foster and promote unwavering support of the United Nations and of its auxiliary, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); unswerving faith in the peaceful settlement of disputes; and unending patience in resolving differences in and among nations.
2. Feeling that opportunities to build world citizenship are present in every community, we urge constructive action at the local level to further intergroup cooperation, encourage friendly contacts with people of other lands, and extend knowledge about world affairs.
3. We urge continued cooperation with other groups on the projects in international educational reconstruction (such as direct aid to teachers in war-devastated countries, and special courtesies and services to exchange teachers) so that through this means local units may contribute most effectively to the European recovery program.
4. We believe that atomic power should be controlled and utilized to serve and benefit mankind rather than as a force of destruction.
5. We urge that all parents and teachers avoid the exhibition of national, racial, and religious prejudice, and that they cooperate to instill in children and youth such attitudes as thoughtfulness, fairness, and generosity toward the judgment of others.

The National Congress pamphlet *Program Planning* contains a year's program based on the 1948-49 platform. Please therefore keep this issue of the *National Congress Bulletin* on file, for you will need to refer to the platform from time to time.



© H. Armstrong Roberts

THIS BUSINESS OF HOME AND FAMILY LIFE

• We believe that the Objects, policies, and guiding principles of the National Congress have been and will continue to be a constructive influence on human behavior. Realizing an ever greater need for bettering personal and social relationships, both within and without the family; we urge that:

1. Parents should recognize the teaching power of good example; that democratic family living is a foundation for citizenship in a democracy; that healthy and gracious living is an essential; that child and youth guidance is a shared responsibility which must be coordinated to be effective; and that a religious education is an important part of every child's American heritage.

2. Reading, radio, and motion pictures should be recognized as powerful influences in the molding of character and attitudes. We ask that parents exercise the utmost effort to assure availability of good books and good programs in homes and communities. We advocate guidance of children and young people toward wise and rewarding choices in each of these fields of communication. We urge parents to share these experiences with their children and to provide a rich background of cultural arts as well as other recreational opportunities in the home.

3. Local parent-teacher associations should assist parents toward better family living through the medium of unit projects and programs.

4. Wider use should be made of small discussion groups in educating for better human relationships. We reiterate our belief that informal study groups based on the courses in the *National Parent-Teacher* magazine are invaluable both in themselves and as a means of developing lay leadership on all levels of child development.

5. Appropriate courses in home and family life education should be established at all academic levels, and parents of junior and senior high school students should be invited to discuss the same material in concurrent groups.

6. Parent-teacher associations should take the lead in working toward the better integration of the educational programs of all community agencies interested in the welfare of children from preschool age to adulthood.

7. Parent-teacher groups should stimulate community efforts toward the proper solution of local housing conditions, in order to correct and counteract the emotional strains for children inherent in crowded households.

CONCLUSION

We hold that the strength, stature, and quality of society is determined by the moral integrity of the individuals who comprise it. For the achievement of that integrity we assume our due share of responsibility. We shall, therefore, exact of ourselves, instill in our children, and promote in our communities standards of honor and responsibility established upon a firm faith in the abiding spiritual values. Upon our shoulders, as parents and teachers, we take the responsibility of building in our children and youth this integrity as we share the tasks involved in this "Unfinished Business—The Child and His Future."

PLATFORM COMMITTEE:

Mrs. J. J. Garland, Chairman
Mrs. William R. Blair
Mrs. Charles D. Center
Mrs. Otto Eisenstein
Mrs. J. W. Heylman
Sara M. Holbrook

Mrs. H. Otis Howgate
William Jamieson, Jr.
Elise E. Ruffini
Mrs. Dale Thomas
I. D. Weeks
George B. Zehmer

STREAMLINERS

• Station WNAD at the University of Oklahoma cooperates with the Oklahoma Congress in broadcasting a weekly roundup of news and activities in local associations throughout the state. Several other programs are also devoted to parent-teacher interests: a series entitled "Let's Improve Education"; a series called "Understanding Our Children"; and a family life radio forum, on which Dr. Alice Sowers, professor of family life education at the university (and a former National Congress vice-president from Region VI) discusses problems of particular value to parents.

* * *

• From Mrs. Fred Hadley, president of District No. 4 in the Iowa Congress, comes news of a special radio program series this year on the Four-Point Program. At 10:15 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month, a fifteen-minute broadcast entitled "Know Your P.T.A." was carried over Station KTRI in Sioux City, Iowa. The subjects from November through April were "Social Hygiene"; "Preschool Parent Education and Mental Hygiene"; "Adult Education"; "Founders Day—P.T.A. Influence on World Understanding"; "School Hot Lunch"; and "Summer Round-Up."

• Even the most reckless driver is likely to slow down as he approaches school crossings in Hampden, Maine, for during the hours when children are going to and from school, a life-size, brightly painted "traffic doll" is planted squarely in the middle of each school thoroughfare. The dolls were designed and made under the supervision of the P.T.A. and are placed in the streets by the safety patrol boys as an effective warning to motorists.

* * *

• Shortly before Christmas the Stephen Foster P.T.A., Louisville, Kentucky, turned over the parent-teacher room to the students of Stephen Foster School for use as a display and sales room for Student Loan pencils that had been decorated as Christmas novelties. Half of the funds derived went to the student loan fund and the other half into the world friendship fund. Then a CARE food package was mailed to a family in Mantuola, Italy.

Also in December, the Albert S. Brandeis P.T.A. in Louisville cooperated with the teachers and pupils in filling a chest with books, pencils, crayons, maps, and paper destined for a school in Holland.

P.T.A. LEADERS!

• Have you taken advantage of the opportunity to subscribe or to renew your subscription to

National Parent-Teacher:

The P.T.A. Magazine

and at the same time get two very interesting books for yourself, for your P.T.A. library, or for your school. . . .

All Three For Only \$2.10

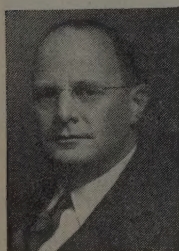
The books are *How To Stay Alive as Long as You Live* and the *Golden Jubilee History of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers*. For further details and a handy order blank, refer to the circular mailed to you earlier this year.

FIVE NATIONAL OFFICERS ELECTED AT ANNUAL CONVENTION

AT THE annual convention in Cleveland the second vice-president and four vice-presidents of the National Congress were elected by the delegates. In conformance with national Bylaws, the slate of nominees had been previously drawn up by the committee to nominate national officers, and there were no further nominations from the convention floor. Election polls were open from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 25, and at the general session that same evening the following officers were declared officially elected:

- *Second Vice-president*—Herold C. Hunt, Chicago, Illinois
- *Vice-president from Region I*—Mrs. Clifford N. Jenkins, West Hempstead, Long Island, New York
- *Vice-president from Region II*—Mrs. A. J. Nicely, Erie, Pennsylvania
- *Vice-president from Region IV*—Mrs. Robert F. Shank, Indianapolis, Indiana
- *Vice-president from Region VI*—Mrs. C. C. Clark, Natchez, Mississippi

The brief biographical sketches presented below will help you get acquainted with your new national officers, all of whom are well qualified for their coming tasks.



Herold C. Hunt

Dr. Hunt served as president of the American Association of School Administrators during 1947-48 and is a member of various commissions in the National Society for the Study of Education, the American Council on Education, and the National Conference of Christian and Jews. He is an active parent-teacher member and has worked closely with parent-teacher councils in every community where he has had school responsibilities.

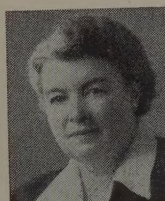
HEROLD C. HUNT, second vice-president, has won deserved renown as an educator. Now general superintendent of the Chicago Public Schools, he formerly held a similar post as superintendent of the Kansas City Schools.



Mrs. Clifford N. Jenkins

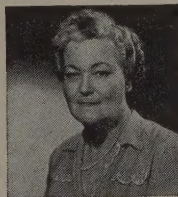
conference and by virtue of that office served as a member of the Executive Committee.

As a member of the board of directors of the Nassau Philharmonic Orchestra, she has done much to promote children's concerts in the Long Island area. She is also a past president of Brooklyn's Aytoun Society, an organization devoted to philanthropic work with children.



Mrs. A. J. Nicely

was not only a substitute teacher during the war years but was also director of nurses' aides and head of the local Red Cross war fund headquarters. In the American Association of University Women she has been president of the Erie branch and director of education in the Pennsylvania division. In addition, she has served as vice-president and placement chairman of the American Women's Voluntary Services.



Mrs. Robert F. Shank

the Executive Committee as well. Mrs. Shank has had academic and religious teaching experience. She has been a member of the executive committee of numerous Indiana groups including the following: the School Study Commission, the Recreation Council, the Advisory Health Council, the Child Welfare Association, and the Social Hygiene Council.

MRS. CLIFFORD N. JENKINS, vice-president from Region I, completed her term as president of the New York Congress in the fall of 1947. During 1946-47 she was chairman of the state presidents'

MRS. A. J. NICELY, vice-president from Region II, is now completing her term as president of the Pennsylvania Congress. A former teacher in the secondary schools of Erie, Mrs. Nicely

MRS. ROBERT F. SHANK, vice-president from Region IV is the former president of the Indiana Congress. During 1947-48 she was chairman of the state presidents' conference and therefore served on



Mrs. C. C. Clark

National Parent-Teacher. Formerly a public school teacher, Mrs. Clark has been on the board of the Mississippi Social Hygiene Association, a group organized as a direct result of a cooperative parent-teacher project known as "education for responsible parenthood." Other Mississippi groups of which she is a member include the State Council for Alcohol Education and the Merit System Council of the Public Welfare Department. She is a former member of the legislation committee of the Mississippi Education Association and of the Mississippi Nutrition Committee.

STRESS SAFETY FOR FOURTH OF JULY WEEK END

Good Programs Mean Good Attendance

The Oakdale P.T.A. in Mobile, Alabama, uses this device to encourage more male memberships: In counting attendance for the awarding of room prizes at regular meetings, five extra points are allowed for each father. As a result, more than 200 of the 523 P.T.A. members are men. This total membership figure is also noteworthy, because it represents a large majority of the 650 parents connected with the Oakdale Public School.

Probably one reason why the attendance is so good is that programs of exceptional interest have been conducted under the leadership of H. C. Rush, local president. On one occasion, for instance, twelve pairs of twins and one set of triplets were featured on the program. Others who participated in the meetings during the year were:

- Several English war brides, who expressed their views on America and its people.
- Five couples who had celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary.
- Two Mobile County school teachers who held the local record for number of years devoted to the profession.
- A group of persons who had followed their particular vocations for a long time—a locomotive engineer, a steamship captain, an instructor, and others.

Conference Outcomes Are Specific

Last fall the school education committee of the Georgia Congress, in cooperation with the State Department of Education, sponsored nine regional work conferences that proved stimulating to the 450 parent-teacher leaders and school personnel who attended. Among the many valid conclusions drawn were these:

1. Better relations between parents and teachers would result if:

- Parents would show a friendlier interest in teachers, not only at the beginning of the school year but throughout the entire term.
- Frequent home visits by teachers and school visits by parents could be arranged.
- Round-table discussions could be scheduled to provide more "give-and-take" between teachers and parents on problems of mutual interest.

2. Better programs can be developed by:

- Planning programs to meet immediate needs and gearing subject matter to local interests.
- Assigning definite responsibilities to as many members as possible so that active participation will be the general rule rather than the exception.
- Acquainting members with the total program of the P.T.A.
- Augmenting regular meetings with study groups and panel discussions that take up specific problems.
- Allowing children to take part in program presentations of classroom work or in other approved ways that do not exploit youth.

3. Better attendance will be achieved if efforts are made to:

- Give each member a feeling of importance in the work of the association.
- Offer a special welcome to new members and infrequent comers.
- Send special invitations to parents that have not yet displayed an interest in P.T.A. work.
- Arrange meetings at a time convenient to most members.
- Visit rural homes and encourage farm folk to attend.
- See that simple standards of dress are adhered to; otherwise, some members will stay away from meetings because they feel their clothes are not as nice as their neighbors'.

The conferences also devoted attention to teacher recruitment and to the setting up of a twelve-year school program in Georgia.

NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER

Parent Education Study Courses

For 1948-1949

1. PSYCHOLOGY OF THE PRESCHOOL CHILD
2. PSYCHOLOGY OF THE SCHOOL-AGE CHILD
[Children in Elementary School]
3. PSYCHOLOGY OF THE SCHOOL-AGE CHILD
[Adolescents]

Titles of Articles on Which Courses Are Based

- 1 { The Inseparables: Body and Mind
Brothers and Sisters
Playtime Is Growing Time
Freedom from Fear
How Intelligence Develops
Thumbs Down on Prejudice
Sources of Sex Understanding
The Roots of Aggression

- 2 { When Their Feelings Are Hurt
Lesson Trouble
Little Fidgets Have Big Needs
Hero Worship: Wise or Unwise?
The Truth About Report Cards
Quarreling Among Children
Those Radio-Comic-Book Blues
Allowance for Growth

- 3 { Learning To Decide
Are They Really Drifting?
What It Takes To Be Popular
Vanishing Ideals
Who Shall Go to College?
Democracy in the Teens
Are They Actually Delinquent?
Will They Be Ready for Marriage?

Descriptive leaflets are available free to groups interested in undertaking these study courses. Write to *National Parent-Teacher: The P.T.A. Magazine*, 600 South Michigan Boulevard, Chicago 5, Illinois.



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• Over the years the number of P.T.A. study groups has been mounting steadily—just like the parent-teacher membership itself. So that these groups may concentrate more effectively on the problems falling within each specific age range, the *National Parent-Teacher* will publish three study courses in 1948-49 instead of the traditional two. As always, each monthly study course article will be accompanied by its own outline, discussion questions, and supplementary reading list.

• The next issue of the *National Congress Bulletin* will be the September 1948 number, which will be mailed the first week in September. Please remember that the *Bulletin* subscription rate is **30 cents a year**.